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OC - m71 - 501

80 JUL 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Public Understanding of the Role of Intelligence

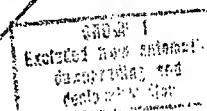
REFERENCE : Your Memo, same subject, dated 16 July 1971

1. You asked some days ago for comments on the reference. At the risk of being gratuitous and probably redundant (since so many others closer to the subject than I have already commented) I should like to advance a couple of general points and then comment more specifically about my own Office of Communications. The Director's speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors was indeed an excellent kickoff. I suggest that there are a number of other public forums at which, or before which, officers at the Senior echelon of the Agency might well improve our image. Obviously one does not include the Clandestine Service. One area in which the public has been advised is that we have great expertise and depth. There is a high proportion of PH D's particularly in the Directorate of Intelligence. It seems to me that in academic forums involving the speciality field or basic discipline in which the labors in this Agency relate would be a stage on which we could do more playing than we do now. Obviously I recognize the security problems of separating classified from unclassified. Yet, with papers/speeches prepared in advance I think we could insure the basic protection required. ✓

2. As regards OC specifically I have difficulty in visualizing a truly public propaganda campaign. The nature of our efforts world-wide speaking substantially in open forum as CIA. Also, to do so even on a strictly technical basis subjects us to the risk of identifying the Clandestine Services operations and personnel with whom we are directly associated. 25X1

3. I do believe that note should be taken of the fact that OC in recent years has definitely increased its liaison within the Government and with the communications electronics industry supporting Government. Although it may be by indirection it is my belief that our people, particularly our young engineers, have established a position of respect within this framework which can make us all proud. A number of the technical programs sponsored by this Office are imaginative and front-running. The fact that we are pace-setting on a number of technological ✓

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fronts is not lost to our governmental counterparts nor to the civilian contractors with whom we work. Again, this contribution, while certainly not strictly public nor in the context of helping all Americans to better understand us, is still a helpful contribution.

4. I fear that truly specific and helpful suggestions within the Support Directorate should probably be looked for from Personnel and Training.



Director of Communications

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